



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-84

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Twenty-four alternative education grants awarded for 2008-09 school year

MADISON—Twenty-four grants for new alternative education programs for the 2008-09 school year will help at-risk students stay in school and progress toward graduation.

“Students bring a variety of needs to school,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

“These alternative education grants make all the difference for young people who struggle in a traditional school setting and need another opportunity or a different avenue to achieve academic success.”

The Department of Public Instruction works with school districts to develop programs that help all students be successful. Alternative education program ideas include early intervention for at-risk learners, credit acceleration, behavior programs, or services for students who have left school entirely and want an opportunity to come back and graduate.

For this year’s competitive grant program, the DPI received 43 applications requesting almost \$4 million for alternative education grants. The \$1,800,000 allocation for the 2008-09 school year will be split among the 24 grants, serving 29 school districts and one Cooperative Educational Service Agency. Grants are for five years. Recipients receive 100 percent of the allocation in the first three years, 60 percent funding in the fourth year, and 40 percent funding in year five. The 24 new grants make a total of 165 state-funded alternative education programs serving several thousand students statewide. The Legislature first approved funding for alternative education grants in 2000, with each year’s allocation totaling \$5 million.

“Alternative education programs reach students through innovative curriculum and instruction. Each time an alternative education student achieves success, we learn more about which strategies are effective and can use that information to improve learning opportunities for all children,” Burmaster said. “Our New Wisconsin Promise ensures a quality education for every child, and alternative education programs must be part of Wisconsin’s overall educational mix.”

#

NOTES: Additional information about alternative education programs can be found on the Department of Public Instruction website at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/alternativeed/alted.html>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_84.pdf.

Alternative Education Grants

Districts or CESAs with an asterisk * are acting as fiscal agents for the consortium listed below their name.

2008-09 Grant Awards

Algoma	\$80,000
Ashland	\$90,000
Black River Falls	\$90,000
CESA 11*	\$70,000
Grantsburg	
Siren	
Webster	
Cumberland	\$75,000
DeForest	\$90,000
Fall River	\$70,000
Franklin	\$80,000
Germantown	\$60,000
Hillsboro	\$90,000
Howard-Suamico	\$80,000
Little Chute	\$60,000
Manitowoc	\$90,000
Oak Creek*	\$75,000
Cudahy	
Onalaska	\$75,000
Oregon	\$90,000
Rhineland	\$80,000
Rib Lake	\$65,000
Southern Door	\$90,000
Tomahawk	\$60,000
Washington-Caldwell	\$25,000
Whitehall*	\$90,000
Blair-Taylor	
Independence	
Whitnall	\$75,000
Wonewoc-Union	\$50,000

Continuing Grants 2007-08

Adams-Friendship
Green Lake
Hurley
Marinette

Milwaukee Public Schools
Oshkosh
Prescott
Stoughton
Wittenberg-
 Birnamwood

Continuing Grants

2006-07

Almond-Bancroft*
 Tri-County
Bangor
Boscobel*
 Wauzeka-Steuben
D.C. Everest
Elkhorn Area
Manawa
Marshfield
Northland Pines
Turtle Lake

Continuing Grants

2005-06

Bayfield
Berlin
Boyceville
CESA 9*
 Antigo
 Elcho
 Mosinee
 Phelps

Fond du Lac
Hartford Union
Janesville
Kettle Moraine*
 Palmyra-Eagle
 Oconomowoc

Kiel
Menominee Indian
Middleton-Cross Plains
Neenah
Nekoosa
New London
Park Falls
Phillips*
 Prentice
 CESA 12
Plymouth
Racine
Sheboygan Falls
South Milwaukee
St. Francis
Sun Prairie
Tomah
Wisconsin Rapids

Continuing Grants 2004-05

Arrowhead Union
Campbellsport
Clintonville
Dodgeland
Ellsworth
Hayward
Hustisford
Kewaunee
Laona
Oconto Falls
Portage
Riverdale
Sparta
Weyauwega-Fremont